

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7379**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1599

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 10, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Speech Pathologists and Audiologists.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Lehe

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill amends several definitions concerning speech-language pathology and audiology. It requires licensure of speech-language pathology aides and assistants (speech-language pathology support personnel). It also amends licensure requirements of speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology support personnel, and audiologists.

The bill requires an audiologist to possess a doctorate degree after December 1, 2006. It allows the Professional Standards Board to issue credentials to certain speech language professionals. It also allows certified speech-language pathologists and audiologists who meet certain requirements to be considered to have a National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification.

The bill amends reciprocity licensure requirements for audiologists. It requires speech-language pathology support personnel to practice under the supervision of a board approved speech-language pathologist. It also requires licenses to be displayed. This bill makes conforming changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The bill allows the Professional Standards Board to issue credentials to certain speech language professionals. The fiscal impact of this provision is currently indeterminable and will be updated as the information is provided.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** This bill creates licenses for speech-language pathologists who have either an associate degree or bachelor's degree. It also increases the education requirement for the audiologist license.

from a master's degree to a doctorate. Both of these provisions could have the potential to affect the number of licenses that are applied for. Currently, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board charges \$150 for speech-language pathologists and audiologists licenses and \$50 for the speech-language pathology aides license. The Board may adopt rules in regards to the licensure of the new speech-language pathologist licenses. The fiscal impact of this bill is dependent on the fees set by the Board and on how the number of license applicants might vary.

*Penalty Provision:* If this bill results in additional speech-pathologist licenses being issued, the potential for violation of the law regarding speech-pathologist licensure may be increased. The violation is a Class B misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Penalty Provision:* A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

**State Agencies Affected:** Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Valerie Ruda, 317-232-9867.